

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 20 are pending. Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 14, 16, and 18 are currently amended. Claims 3, 4, 6, and 7 are hereby being amended to recite that the cation comprises an organic onium cation (basis therefor being found, for example, at page 4, lines 24 – 27). Claims 14, 16, and 18 are therefore being amended to delete the recitation.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102/103

Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 15, 17, 19, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,176,943 (Woo). The rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

The nonpolymeric ionic salts used in the processes of the invention contain at least one cation comprising an organic onium cation. Woo does not teach or suggest a nonpolymeric ionic salt containing at least one cation comprising an organic onium cation. Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 15, 17, 19, and 20 are therefore novel and unobvious over Woo, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) or 103(a) be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2, and 8 – 13 are allowed.

Claim Objections

Claims 5, 14, 16, and 18 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants submit that the base claims (claims 3, 4, 6, and 7) as amended are novel and unobvious and therefore their dependent claims are also novel and unobvious. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objection to claims 5, 14, 16, and 18 be withdrawn.

Concluding Remarks

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of Applicant's claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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